



September 2012



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Dear Westford Residents,

In the past, September evoked thoughts of summer's end and a flurry of back-to-school activities. Ever since September 11, 2001, September is also a time of sadness and remembrance of the tragic events that unfolded that fateful day. This year, our September 11th Memorial Committee brought forward the design of a new monument to honor those who lost their lives or loved ones, which will be constructed and placed in the Police Station courtyard. Thank you to the members of this committee for working to provide us with a permanent tribute to all who were affected by the events of that horrific day.

Our Special Town Meeting will be held on October 15th, 2012. The warrant is now closed and contains 19 articles including:

Article 1: Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Adjustments: the town is being asked to raise and appropriate \$116,908 in order to supplement the following operating budgets; including the Parker Village Land Acquisition for a new Fire Station (\$36,000), an OPEB Actuarial Study (\$6,400), Police Personal Services (\$57,500) to be reimbursed by Nashoba Valley Technical High School, and a MEGA Worker's Compensation Assessment (\$17,008). The town is also being asked to transfer \$38,100 from Ambulance Enterprise Free Cash in order to supplement Ambulance Enterprise, Overtime (\$5,000), Medical Supplies (\$20,000), and purchase a new CPR machine (\$13,100).

Article 2: Budget Transfers: is seeking approval to transfer \$20,000 from the Westford Public Schools to the Police Personal Services to fund a new School Resource Officer for a portion of the school year.

Article 3: unpaid bills will likely be dismissed.

Article 4: asks the town to transfer \$375,000 from Free Cash (received last spring in a settlement with the suppliers of perchlorate for blasting at the highway garage) into the Perchlorate Stabilization account, and then transfer \$100,000 for the continued cleanup operations.

Article 5: Capital Requests: asks the town to appropriate from Capital Stabilization to purchase a new highway dump truck.

Article 6: will determine the net amount to be raised by taxes for Fiscal Year 2013.

Article 7: asks the town to accept MGL chp 59, sec. c which allows the assessors to grant tax abatements for members of the Massachusetts National Guard and reservists on active duty.

(Continued on next page)

Article 8: asks the town to allow us to settle a claim for trees on our town common that were damaged by a vehicle.

Article 9: asks the town to allow the Selectmen to enter into a solar net metering credit sales agreement for a term not to exceed thirty years.

Article 10: asks the town to appropriate \$760,000 from Community Preservation Funds to purchase a Conservation Restriction on the O'Brien farm, a 23 acre parcel located at 18 Vose Road. The Conservation Restriction is to prohibit future development while allowing the land to be used for conservation, recreation, limited agriculture, forestry, and educational purposes.

Article 11: asks the town to amend Section 33.2 of our General Bylaws, titled "Authority to settle certain claims", by deleting the words "subject to approval of the Town" in the first sentence and by deleting the figure \$1000 in the second sentence and replacing with \$100,000. This will allow the selectmen to settle certain claims without having to wait for town meeting to approve.

Article 12: asks the town to adopt a new bylaw to restrict the discharge of water into public ways when doing so may cause a dangerous and/or defective condition.

Article 13: asks the town to adopt a new bylaw which will allow the town to make temporary repairs to private ways.

Article 14: is a citizen's petition seeking to increase the size of the Tax Possession Sale Committee from 3 members to 7.

Article 15: asks the town to transfer the care, custody, control and management of a parcel of land located at the end of Sawmill Road from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Conservation Commission.

Article 16: asks the town to transfer custody of Parcel 86 Map 7 (Acton Road Parcel aka the Vose parcel) from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Conservation Commission, to be held for conservation purposes with the express prohibition that the parcel not be used for parking purposes; and further that the Selectmen be authorized to grant by deed a permanent conservation restriction on the parcel to expressly prohibit the use of the parcel for parking.

Article 17: asks the town to allow the Selectmen to enter a 99 year lease with MassDOT for Phase II of the Bruce Freeman Rail trail, for the purposes of establishing, constructing, operating and maintaining Phase II of the multi-use rail trail/bicycle path for non-motorized transportation, open space and recreation purposes.

Article 18: is a citizen's petition asking the town to amend our Zoning Bylaws to allow drive-up windows at restaurants in the Commercial Highway District.

(Continued on next page)

Article 19: is a citizen's petition authorizing the Selectmen to petition the General Court for an additional all alcohol off premises retail license to be located at Cornerstone Square.

Please attend our Special Town Meeting and let your voice be heard about the articles contained in this warrant.

It is with deep sadness that I report our town lost two residents recently. Thomas J. Courtney, a veteran who served in the Battle of the Bulge, and a man who was loved by many, was injured in a tragic automobile accident that resulted in his recent passing. Victor F. Neal, Sr., known to us as "Cheerio", who attended most of Westford Academy's athletic events, and was known throughout the town as someone who was a giving and uplifting man passed away following a brief illness. Both of these men will be missed and my thoughts and prayers go out to their families, friends, and our town as a whole.

I hope to see you at town meeting on October 15, 2012.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



*Westford-Littleton Crew oars are repainted for the fall season.
Photo by C. Coutu*

Information Technology Department

Appeal for Pictures of Westford

We like to try and keep the town website looking current, and part of that process is to use various seasonal pictures. So we are looking for pictures of Westford to use on the front page of the town's website over the next 6 months. The pictures must belong to



you, should be of locations in Westford, should not feature identifiable people (unless you have their permission to share the images) and should have an autumn/winter/holiday theme to them. We will credit you by making your name appear if a website visitor puts their cursor over the image. Please send your pictures to the Technology Director via Email (mwells@westfordma.gov). Thank you.



*Early morning Westford Academy Crew practice on Forge Pond.
Photo by Karen Keenan McCann.*

Town Clerk News

2012 Fall Election/Town Meeting Schedule

Date	Event	Voter registration & party enrollment change deadline
October 15	Special Town Meeting* Abbot School (Mon.) 7:30pm	Friday, October 5, 2012, 8:00pm
November 6	Presidential Election (Tues.) Polls are open 7:00am - 8:00pm	Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 8:00pm

* Town Meetings are held at the Abbot School gymnasium (25 Depot St.).

NEW* Download a [Mail-in Voter Registration Form](#)**

Note: Mail in voter registration forms must be postmarked by the deadline.

If you will be 18 on or before the next election, you are a U.S. citizen and you live in Westford, you are eligible to register to vote in Westford. Voter registration forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, J.V. Fletcher Library and online. You may register to vote in person at any city or town clerk's office, by mail or at the Registry of Motor Vehicles (online transactions at the Registry do not enable you to register to vote).

Currently, the voter registration deadline is 20 days before an election (10 days before a special town meeting). **Seventeen-year-olds, beware!** You may register while you are still 17 if you will be 18 on or before election day, but you must register at least 20 days before the election. If you become a US citizen after the voter registration deadline and you register to vote before 4:00pm on the day before the election, you are specially qualified to vote in that election.

According to the Secretary of State's website, to be counted, a completed absentee ballot must be received by the time the polls close on Election Day.

[Apply for an absentee ballot](#)

If you are voting from outside the United States, your completed absentee ballot for a final state or city election can be received up until 10 days after the election, but must be postmarked on or before Election Day.

[Follow this link for more information on military and overseas absentee voting.](#)

Health Department News

High Dose Flu Vaccine for Ages 65 and Older Now Available in Westford

The Westford Health Department is happy to offer the new High-Dose Fluzone vaccine to Westford senior citizens during this 2012-2013 flu season. This vaccine is licensed by the FDA only for adults age 65 years and older and was first offered in the U.S. during the 2011-12 flu season.

Studies have shown that as people age, their immune system weakens over time. Therefore, some senior citizens still get influenza despite receiving an annual flu vaccination. In addition, this lower immunity puts seniors at a higher risk for influenza complications, including pneumonia. According to the CDC, about 90 percent of flu related deaths occur in people age 65 and older.

In response to this problem, a vaccine has been developed to better protect our senior population. Clinical trials on the High-Dose Fluzone showed a stronger immune response in people 65 years and older. Both the CDC and the ACIP continue to maintain that flu vaccination is the first and most important step in protecting against the flu.

There will be a High-Dose Fluzone ONLY clinic for Westford Residents age 65 and older on Sept. 27 from 12:30-3:30 pm. Location: Franco American Club, 55 West Prescott St. Please try to attend by the alphabetical listing below. This is a walk-in, no appointment clinic.

- **A-H 12:30-1:30 p.m.**
- **I-Q 1:30-2:30 p.m.**
- **R-Z 2:30- 3:30 p.m.**

Regular Flu Vaccine Clinics

The regular flu vaccine will be available in injection and nasal spray forms for all Westford residents age 3 years and older on the following dates:

- **Fri., Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the J.V. Fletcher Library, 50 Main St. Walk-in.**
- **Thurs., Oct. 18, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Millennium Sch., 23 Depot St. Walk-in.**
- **Tues., Nov. 13, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Millennium Sch., Walk-in.**
- **Wed., Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 55 Main St. Appointment only.**

As in the past, the Westford Health Dept. will seek reimbursement from Medicare and other insurances for those residents who have coverage. We ask that all residents bring their insurance cards to the clinics. As always, there will be no charge for any flu vaccine regardless of insurance coverage. School-based nasal spray clinics will be offered in all Westford Public Schools towards the end of October. Please watch for emails sent to parents via the WPS Billboard.

If needed, home flu vaccination visits will be provided to homebound Westford residents, by appointment only.

If you have questions, you may contact the Westford Health Department at 978-399-2548 or visit our website at www.Westfordma.gov/boh .

Health Department News (Continued)

PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH) ALERT

Westford residents are probably aware that “whooping cough” (pertussis) is making headlines. While whooping cough naturally runs in cycles, peaking every 3-5 years, public health officials across the country have seen that the peaks have been higher and overall case counts have been rising in the past decade.

There are many possible reasons for these higher spikes, and much research is being devoted to finding out why this is occurring, but the “take home message” today is that early treatment and prevention is critical.

At this time, the Westford Health Dept. is working closely with school nurses, local physician offices and the Massachusetts Dept. Of Public Health (MDPH) to monitor potential cases as they become known, but “cough surveillance” (paying attention to a nagging cough) really needs to begin at home.

Since the symptoms during the first 2 weeks of pertussis are usually mild and “cold-like,” people will continue to attend school, go to work and follow their usually daily activities. However, they are infectious at this time and yet unaware that if they have pertussis, they are spreading the disease. Coughs can have many causes, but the only way to definitely diagnose pertussis is by a lab test done at a doctor's office.

Once a doctor suspects pertussis, it can be treated with antibiotics. However, in infants, because they may not be fully immunized, the illness can be so severe that they may succumb despite treatment. Therefore, it is especially important to be aware of infant exposure to coughing individuals and for those diagnosed with pertussis, to contact the family of any infant, or pregnant women they may have seen during their infectious period.

Pertussis can be prevented by proper vaccination. Make sure your children are immunized at the recommended ages for with DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis) vaccine (given to children under 7). Adolescents should get a booster vaccination of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) around age 11-12 years. Adults, including grandparents, should also get a booster dose of Tdap.

More information can be found on the Westford Health Dept.'s pertussis info page on www.westfordma.gov/boh .

Residents with questions may also contact the Health Dept. at 978-692-5509.

Health Department News - *Updates on WNV and EEE*

Department Urges Personal Protection to Reduce Exposure- Ground Spraying is Temporary Measure

Human cases and mosquito's infected by Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) have been detected across the state. Although at this time, we have no reported human cases, Westford has had a number of mosquitoes test positive for WNV. The Board of Health has authorized spraying of town fields and targeted street spraying, following Central MA Mosquito Control Project (CMMCP) prescribed protocols, when positive mosquitoes have been found, but residents must be aware that this is a temporary measure and should not be relied upon for protection.

When the CMMCP conducts truck mounted targeted ground spraying of fields and/or roadways for the Town, the aim is to lower the overall flying mosquito population and reduce numbers of infected mosquitoes in areas that confirmed a positive mosquito was found at that time. It is important to realize that the spraying is a measure which will help reduce the numbers of flying mosquitoes temporarily. It is NOT a residual product designed to kill mosquitoes after the actual application period. Dependent on weather conditions, within a short period of time (3 days to 2 weeks) a completely new adult mosquito population may populate. As temporary spraying cannot completely eliminate infected mosquitoes, it cannot eliminate the threat of mosquito-borne illness. Additionally, as cooler temperatures arrive, they have the effect of reducing mosquito activity, but they also reduce spraying efficiency so spraying is then discontinued for the year. For these reasons infected mosquitoes may remain. This is why it is so important for residents to continue to take personal precautions against mosquito bites before and after spraying is conducted.

Central MA Mosquito Control Project: www.cmmcp.org

Information about Ground Spraying: www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/factsheets/mosquito-spraying.pdf

Please remain vigilant as even with the onset of the more recent cooler temperatures, mosquitoes will persist well into the fall until we have a good, hard frost. Peak times for mosquito activity are from dusk to dawn. Use mosquito repellent containing DEET any time you are outdoors, but especially during these peak times and remember to reapply often! Remember, being outside even a short time can be long enough to get a mosquito bite. Information on preventing mosquito bites and about mosquito repellents can be found on our web site at www.westfordma.gov/boh

Home and animal owners should also reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to DAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

More information about WNV and EEE topics, including numbers of positive results from 2012, can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information web page at www.mass.gov/dph/wnv or by calling the DPH Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.

Health Department News (continued)

West Nile and EEE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Residents are urged to **always** protect themselves and pets against mosquito borne illness.

You should do the following:

- Avoid outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquito activity is greatest.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants if outdoors when mosquitoes are active.
- Use a repellent containing DEET, except on infants. Avoid concentrations above 10-15% for children and concentrations above 30-35 % for adults. Cream, lotion or stick formula is the best.
- Cover arms and legs of children when playing outdoors and use netting to cover a baby's carriage or playpen.
- Fix holes in screens and windows.
- Remove any standing water on your property including trash cans, pots, recycle bins and pool covers.
- Pay special attention to tires, as they are a common place for mosquitoes to breed.
- Turnover wheelbarrows and wading pools when not in use.
- Clean clogged roof gutters and remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of rainwater.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in birdbaths, aerate ornamental ponds and stock them with fish.
- Keep swimming pools clean and properly chlorinated.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property.



Recycling Commission News

The Westford Recycling Commission is sponsoring a Used Electronics Collection Event.

Saturday, September 22, 2012
Location: Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street
7AM - 2PM

Please refer to the website for a complete list of items accepted and pricing visit www.westfordma.gov/recycling. CASH ONLY.

Please direct questions to Joan Keane - 978-392-5955



J.V. Fletcher Library News

What is The J. V. Fletcher Library Worth to You?

In Fiscal Year 2012 the value of the J. V. Fletcher Library's services to the Westford community was approximately **\$8,660,000** OR a return of **\$6.00** on the dollar for each tax dollar invested in the Library.

These figures were determined by a unique tool called the "Value of Library Service Calculator" which was developed by the Massachusetts Library Association Legislative Committee to help libraries evaluate their "worth" to their communities. The Calculator factors in the estimated retail value of each Library service and the number of times within the fiscal year that patrons have visited the library.

The following are the services that are evaluated by the Calculator: books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, CD's, playaways, and more, that are borrowed; museum passes borrowed; eBooks and audiobooks downloaded; Interlibrary Loan requests that are processed; Magazine and Newspaper use in the Library; Meeting Room usage per hour; Children's, Teen and Adult programs attended; Public Computer use per hour and finally the number of reference questions answered.

All in all it could be said, that you MAKE money when you use your Library!



Westford Cultural Council

The Westford Cultural Council has state funds available for grants for arts and science programs. To represent the residents well we would like you to please take 5 minutes click-on and fill out this online survey before September 30.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/QDHKTCP

The Westford Cultural Council is responsible for disbursing funds received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to local cultural and artistic activities. The Council review proposals and grants funds to local applicants for a variety of projects that benefit Westford citizens.

To learn more about the council go to: www.mass-culture.org/Westford

Council on Aging News



Westford Senior Center

Upcoming Events at The Cameron Center

Spaghetti Supper	September 19. Doors open at 4 PM. Dinner served at 5 PM. Fee \$5.00. Call for Reservation.
Aerobics with Elaine	Classes have resumed on Wednesdays at 9 AM and Fridays at 8:30 AM. The fee is \$3.00 per class.
Kimball Golf Tournament	September 20 at 9:00 AM. Cost \$14, includes 18 holes, hot dog or hamburger lunch, with drink and ice cream. Location Kimball Farm. Beginners welcome. Payment due at time of registration, arrive and signup at 8:45 AM.
Music Makers	Cameron Music Makers has resumed regular weekly Friday rehearsals. Held 9:00 to 10:30 AM
Community Food Pantry Open for food distribution	Monday Sept. 17, 1:00 to 3:30 PM Wednesday, Sept. 19, 8:30 to 11:30 AM Thursday Sept. 20, 8:30 to 11:30 AM and 6-8 PM Friday, Sept 21, 8:30 to 11:30 AM
Harvest Fair	Friday and Saturday, October 26 & 27. 8 AM to 2 PM. Tables are available to rent, contact 978-692-5523.

Come out and visit us at the Cameron Center. We have Cameron Companions willing to give you a tour or attend a program with you for the first time.

Please call our Outreach Coordinator, Annette at 978-399-2326.

Water Department News

As of September 14th, the initial phase of the Graniteville Water Main Improvements Project will be complete. All of the new water main has been installed, trenches have been paved, and all residents along the project route have been connected to the new main. Over 4,700 feet of new 12-inch water main was installed on Graniteville Road, River Street, and Beacon Street providing a significant transmission main for the Water Department in this area of the distribution system. In addition, sixty one (61) homes received new service connections to the new water main. A key part of this project was completing two brook crossings on Bridge Street and over Stony Brook on River Street (see below photo). These two crossings connected dead ends in the system and should significantly improve fire protection in Graniteville.

The work on West Street was completed just prior to school starting, and thirteen (13) houses received new service connections to the existing 8-inch main on the street. Once these services were completed, the other existing 6-inch main, which had been the source of several leaks and breaks over the years - the most recent break in April of this year - was taken out of service.

In the spring of 2013, all of the affected streets will be repaved from curb to curb.



*New water main crossing Stony Brook
(photo courtesy of Stantec Engineering)*

Land Use Departments - Project Update

The Land Use Departments are focused on construction oversight and enforcement issues related to the many commercial and residential development projects underway, such as:

- The \$17M Red Hat expansion, which will create more than 180 new jobs.
- The \$60M Cornerstone Square, which will include 27 retail and office businesses, and will create an estimated 700 new permanent jobs.
- Juniper Networks is currently building a new \$7M chiller plant to support its continuing operations.
- The 129 unit - Abbot Mill, several subdivisions, a 48 bed - memory care facility on Route 110, and a 8,000-square foot mixed-use building next to Mangia Mangia.

Major infrastructure improvements are underway including:

- The \$5M state and federal-funded Minot's Corner improvements, which have been in design for several years, will be put out to bid by MassDOT this month.
- The Town has formally petitioned for improvements to the intersection of Tadmuck and Route 110, and is in the process of selecting an engineer to design this project.
- Related to Minot's Corner, the Water Department will upgrade service in Route 110, in addition to water system improvements in Graniteville and elsewhere.

The Planning Board and staff are focused on Master Plan implementation:

- The department coordinated input from all departments to prepare a series of informational posters regarding the implementation status of the Master Plan. These were presented at the June Strategic Planning Retreat, and will be on display at the October 15 Special Town Meeting. This will be the jumping off point for the work of the Master Plan Implementation Committee, which the Planning Board is in the process of appointing.

"Organizational Development" activities are underway that follow directly on recommendations in the 2009 Master Plan:

- The Board of Selectmen appointed an Economic Development Committee which has been meeting regularly. Its initial focus is on finalizing a Small Business Permitting Guide to assist applicants to navigate multi-department project reviews.
- The Historical Commission has interviewed three consultants for the Historical Preservation Planning Support work funded at Annual Town Meeting. A consultant will be brought on board soon, in order to advance the Master Plan's goal of increasing the role of the Historical Commission in town planning issues.

Several other initiatives are also underway:

- At Town Meeting, the Conservation Commission will propose, with support of the Community Preservation Committee, the acquisition of a conservation restriction on the O'Brien Farm, a 25-acre site at 18 Vose Road. The Commission is actively pursuing other potential acquisitions of land and conservation restrictions.
- The Town Planner is leading a Sign Bylaw Working Group to replace the existing sign bylaw. The next working group meeting is September 27, and a modified bylaw is expected to be ready for consideration at the March 2013 Annual Town Meeting.
- In June, the state accelerated the construction schedule for the next phase of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, which will begin in FY14. Work relative to the project design, right-of-way etc. is underway, and will be considered at the October 15 Town Meeting.

Conservation Commission News

Volunteer wanted for Steering Committee of Westford Land and Trail Stewardship Committee

In 1998, the Westford Conservation Commission and Westford Conservation Trust jointly formed the Westford Land and Trail Stewardship Committee to monitor and maintain public access trails in town. The Stewards regularly monitor conservation land areas to be aware of current conditions, and particularly to ascertain whether the land is being respected as it should be. The Stewards also maintain trails to keep them from getting overgrown. The volunteer Stewards, of whom there are approximately 50, are led by a Steering Committee composed of one representative each from the Conservation Commission and Conservation Trust, plus a member at large. This Committee helps coordinate the activities of the Stewards and reports regularly on these activities to the Conservation Commission and also brings to the attention of the Commission any problems such as dumping or any issues of concern regarding the town owned land that is under its care and custody.

Currently the at-large membership position on the Steering Committee is vacant and the Conservation Commission is looking for those individuals who would be interested in filling that vacancy and will be scheduling interviews with interested candidates. If you are interested in being considered please send an email with your contact information (Name address, phone number) to Conservation/Resource Planner William Turner at bturner@westfordma.gov. no later than October 12, 2012.

Please provide a short summary of your experience with land and trail stewardship. You may also call Mr. Turner at 978-692-5524 if you have any questions regarding the Stewardship Committee. The Westford Trail Steward Guidelines and Abutter Relations Policy may be accessed on line from the Conservation Commission website at www.westfordma.gov/conservation at the Land and Trails Stewardship section.

Bill Turner
Westford Conservation/Resource Planner